

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Damond E. Vadnais on 4/25/2008.

Amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 3, 6, and 8, 26-33, 37-42.

Claims 22-25 are rejoined with allowable claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10.

Amend claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An elastic transfer sheet that transfers a biologically active substance that affects a function of a cell to a culture region on a culture plate when placed on the culture plate, the elastic transfer sheet comprising:

a sheet base; and

~~a holding area~~ two or more holding areas provided on the sheet base, ~~each of the holding area~~ two or more holding areas holding [[the]] a biologically active substance,

wherein ~~each of the holding area~~ two or more holding areas is provided in a position for covering [[the]] a culture region of the culture plate,

wherein the biologically active substance is releasable from the elastic transfer sheet, and

~~wherein the holding area is a protruding portion provided on the sheet base, and the biologically active substance is held on the protruding area.~~

wherein each of the two or more holding areas is surrounded by its own protruding wall structure.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The transfer sheet according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the two or more holding areas hold different biologically active substances or different combinations of two or more biologically active substances.

5. (Currently Amended) The transfer sheet according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the two or more holding areas hold a biologically active substance in different concentrations.

6 to 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein ~~the holding area~~ each of the two or more holding areas is able to release the biologically active substance in a sustainable manner.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein each of the two or more holding areas is a protruding area provided on the sheet base, and the biologically active substance is held on the protruding area. ~~that transfers a biologically active substance that affects a function of a cell to a culture region on a culture plate when placed on the culture plate, the transfer sheet comprising:~~

~~a sheet base; and~~

~~a holding area provided on the sheet base, the holding area holding the biologically active substance;~~

~~wherein the holding area is provided in a position for covering the culture region of the culture plate;~~

~~wherein the biologically active substance is releasable from the transfer sheet;~~

~~wherein the transfer sheet contains two or more holding areas each holding a biologically active substance; and~~

~~wherein each of the two or more holding areas is surrounded by its own protruding wall structure.~~

11 to 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a biologically active substance to ~~producing~~ the transfer sheet according to claim 1, the method comprising a step of providing ~~the holding area~~ each or the two or more holding areas of the transfer sheet with the biologically active substance by using liquid discharge means.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the liquid discharge means is discharge means by a thermal ink jet ~~method~~ means.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the liquid discharge means is discharge means by a piezo ink jet ~~method~~ means.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, further comprising a step of immobilizing the biologically active substance by applying an immobilizing energy from the exterior.

Claims Allowance

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 22-25 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1657 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone number for the Group is 571-273-8300. NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

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document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

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Any inquiry concerning rejections or objections in this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bin Shen, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from about 9:00 AM to about 5:30 PM. A phone message left at this number will be responded to as soon as possible (i.e., shortly after the examiner returns to her office).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Jon Weber can be reached at (571) 272-0925.

B Shen

Art Unit 1657

/Jon P Weber/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1657